

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 TRSE-00
ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-11 /110 W
-----088724 130014Z /62

O 130004Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1349
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01946

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION OF
NEXT STEPS

REF: USUN 1923

1. CONTACT GROUP MET AM MAY 12 TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS ON
NAMIBIA. BRITISH OPENED MEETING BY EXPRESSING THEIR
DESIRE (REFTEL) FOR GROUP'S VIEWS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE
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GUIDANCE FOR DAVID OWEN'S MEETING WITH KAUNDA. THEY
AGAIN PROPOSED THE IDEA OF OBTAINING KAUNDA'S REACTION TO
A FRONTLINE SUMMIT. THIS WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY BOTH
THE CANADIANS AND GERMANS WHO FEARED THAT IN TIMES AS
UNCERTAIN AS THESE THE OUTCOME OF SUCH A SUMMIT IS TOO
UNPREDICTABLE. (WITH THE CANADIAN AND GERMAN OPPOSITION,
ADDED TO OUR OBJECTIONS REFTTEL, WE HOPE THE BRITISH HAVE

LAIID THIS IDEA TO REST.)

2. THE CONVERSATION THEN BECAME MORE GENERAL. AMB MCHENRY STATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE MOST IMMEDIATE ACTION OF THE FIVE SHOULD BE TO OBTAIN INFORMALLY AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE, BOTH REAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL, DONE BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAID AND ON THE VIEWS OF THE PARTIES (ESPECIALLY SWAPO AND THE FRONTLINE) AS TO WHERE THE SETTLEMENT EFFORT NOW STANDS. THIS EXPLORATION SHOULD PROCEED ANY DISCUSSIONS OF THE TIMING OR FORMAT OF THE NEXT FORMAL MEETING WITH SWAPO OR THE FRONTLINE. ONLY BY ASCERTAINING THE VIEWS OF THE PARTIES CAN WE JUDGE THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF A FORMAL MEETING.

3. THIS SUGGESTION MET WITH GENERAL APPROVAL, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT WITH FRONTLINE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (PLUS NIGERIA AND GABON) AND IN CONTACTS WITH SWAPO MEMBERS, EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE IMMEDIATELY TO DETERMINE THEIR VIEWS OF WHERE THINGS NOW STAND. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THESE CONTACTS SHOULD BE CASUAL, PERHAPS ONE-ON-ONE, AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO EFFORT TO HAVE ALL FIVE REPRESENTED.

4. BRITISH EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ANY LOSS OF MOMENTUM ON OUR PART MIGHT BE TRANSLATED BY SOUTH AFRICA INTO NEED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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TAKE ACTION ON THEIR OWN. AMB MCHENRY RESPONDED THAT WE SHOULD AVOID ARTIFICIAL MOMENTUM BUT SEEK TO FORESTALL SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION. THIS HE PROPOSED BE DONE IN TWO WAYS:

- (A) BY SPEAKING INFORMALLY WITH LEADERS IN CAPE TOWN (PARTICULARLY HARD-LINE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET). THIS COULD BE DONE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CAPE TOWN FIVE. EMBASSIES WOULD BE EXPECTED TO DO WHAT THEY COULD, AND KEEP OTHERS INFORMED, BUT NOT ACT AS A GROUP. (IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADERS IN CAPE TOWN, THE GROUP DISCUSSED ARRANGING AT SOME POINT A CASUAL EVENING MEETING WITH VORSTER. THIS IDEA WILL BE DISCUSSED AGAIN.)

- (B) BY "GOING OVER THE HEADS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT" TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA, MUCH AS WAS DONE IN MCHENRY'S LAST VISIT. THIS COULD BE DONE THROUGH PRESS CONFERENCES, TALKS WITH EDITORS, AND PUBLIC SPEECHES AND COULD PROBABLY ONLY BE EFFECTIVELY ARRANGED IN THE CONTEXT OF A VISIT BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE FIVE -- PERHAPS A VISIT OF ONE OR TWO MEMBERS OF THE NEW

YORK CONTACT GROUP WOULD SUFFICE.

5. IN BOTH CASES THE OBJECT WOULD BE TO STRESS: (1) THE DAMAGE THAT HAS BEEN DONE TO OUR INITIATIVE IN TERMS OF ITS ACCEPTABILITY AND THE RESULTING NEED FOR TIME TO WORK THINGS OUT; (2) THE NEED FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO END THE REPRESSIVE ACTS WHETHER BY THE MILITARY OR BY THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL; AND (3) THE NEED TO REPLACE THOSE ACTS WITH POSITIVE ACTIONS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE. UNTIL THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND NAMIBIAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE EFFECT OF THEIR ACTIONS, THEY WILL BE INCLINED TO REPEAT THE RAID AND INCREASE THE DETENTIONS

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

AND AT THE SAME TIME PRESS US TO MOVE AHEAD WITH OUR SETTLEMENT EFFORT.

6. CONTACT GROUP AGREED GENERALLY WITH MCHENRY'S LINE OF

REASONING, THOUGH WE WILL REFLECT FURTHER ON IT. WOULD
APPRECIATE ANY VIEWS OF ADDRESSEES ON THE ABOVE AS WELL
AS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL. YOUNG

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